



MEDIA RELEASE

STATE OF TENNESSEE
DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH &
DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

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CONTACT: Jill M. Hudson
615-532-6597 (OFFICE)
615-305-7661 (CELL)

REPORT PROVIDES BEST PRACTICE GUIDELINES FOR CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENT MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

NASHVILLE--The Tennessee Department of Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities (TDMHDD) today released *Best Practice Guidelines: Behavioral Health Services for Children and Adolescents*. The guidelines will be used by psychiatrists, primary care physicians, nurse practitioners, psychologists, health service providers, nurses and social workers throughout the state.

"These guidelines are the result of a collaborative effort involving several of Tennessee's top mental health experts," stated TDMHDD Commissioner Virginia Trotter Betts. "The goal of these guidelines is to improve the care of children and adolescents with psychiatric disorders and to aid practitioners in diagnosis and treatment selection. The department has made every effort to include treatment recommendations based on evidence-based practices."

The report promotes high quality care for children and adolescents served by Tennessee's public health system as well as continuity of care through the establishment of uniform treatment options and the best use of multidisciplinary treatment resources. These guidelines also aid in identification, evaluation and provision of effective treatment for youth with severe mental illness and/or severe emotional disorders.

To view the best practice guidelines or additional mental health information, please visit www.state.tn.us/mental.

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